

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15-17, 19, and add new claim 20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing synchronized service in a communications network ~~including user terminals and servers providing services to the user terminals through at least one channel,~~ the method

~~comprising the steps of:~~

- forming at least one group of user terminals, wherein each of the user terminals are assigned different rights to control a playback of a recording and allocating at least one channel to an individual group;
- transmitting a recording to the user terminals of a group thus formed, each recording including timing markers, each of which indicates an internal position within the recording;
- storing at least part of the recording prior to its playback at each user terminal, wherein the storing further includes storing the timing markers;
- sending a start command to each user terminal of the group;
- in response to the start command, starting the playback of the recording at each user terminal;
- maintaining status information for the recording, the status information indicating at least the playback position of the recording;
- transmitting a status message to the user terminals, the message indicating new status information concerning the recording;

- changing the playback status at each user terminal according to said new status information; and

controlling the playback in the plurality of user equipment by utilizing at least information received in a message from a user terminal with highest priority by utilizing the stored timing markers.

wherein the communications network includes user terminals and servers providing services to the user terminals through at least one channel.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including ~~the further~~ ~~step of~~ storing the recordings in a server.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~including the step of the~~ forming includes forming several user groups.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~including the step of storing includes~~ the storing includes storing of the whole recording prior to its playback.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, including the status information further indicates at least the direction and the speed of the playback.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, including initiating the start command at the server.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, including initiating the start command at a user terminal.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, including sending the status message from the server.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, including sending the status message in response to a status command from a user terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~including the further steps of~~

- assigning different priorities to the user terminals of a group,
- sending new status information from more than one terminal, and
- generating the status message on the basis of the status information sent from the terminal with the highest priority of said more than one terminals.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
~~including the further steps of~~

- assigning each terminal predetermined control operations by means of which the terminal is entitled to control the playback,
- sending new status information from a terminal,
- checking the control operations assigned to said terminal, and
- generating the status message in response to said checking.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing synchronized playback of recordings in a communications network with transmission channels, the system comprising:

- a server ~~for managing~~ configured to manage recordings stored within the system,
 - user terminals ~~for storing and playing~~ configured to store and play the recordings,
- and
- transmission unit means for transmitting configured to transmit the recordings to the user terminals through at least one channel,

wherein each recording includes timing markers (TM), each of which indicates an internal position within the recording, wherein the timing markers are stored with the recordings, and that the system further includes

- first management unit means for maintaining configured to maintain information on user groups formed in the system, the information indicating the user terminal(s) belonging to each group, the channel(s) assigned to each group, and the recording(s) being used by the group, wherein each of the user terminals belonging to a group have different priority rights for controlling playback of a recording;

- second management unit ~~means for maintaining~~ configured to maintain status information for said recordings, the status information indicating at least the playback position of the recording,
- first control unit ~~means for sending~~ configured to send status information to the user terminals of a group, and
- second control unit ~~means~~ at each user terminal, responsive to the first control means, ~~for controlling~~ configured to control the playback in the user terminal according to said status information,

wherein the playback of the recording in the plurality of user equipment is controlled at least by utilizing information received in a message from a user terminal with highest priority and by utilizing the stored timing markers.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the system further includes a centralized database for storing the recordings.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the status information further indicates the direction and the speed of the playback.

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the first management ~~means~~ unit reside in the server.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the first control ~~means~~ unit resides in the server.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the second management ~~means reside~~ unit resides at least in the server.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein user terminals are terminals of a mobile network.

19. (Currently Amended) A server for managing recordings in a system capable of providing a plurality of user terminals with synchronized playback of the recordings via a communications network, the server being configured to:

send synchronization messages to the plurality of user terminals during playback of a recording, thereby causing the plurality of user terminals to store the recording and timing markers;

monitor messages from the plurality of user terminals during playback; and
generate a synchronization message ~~for controlling~~ to control the playback process in the plurality of user equipment by utilizing at least account information received in a message from a user terminal with highest priority, and by utilizing the timing markers that are stored with the recording.

20. (New) A system for providing synchronized playback of recordings in a communications network with transmission channels, the system comprising:

- a server for managing recordings stored within the system,
- user terminals for storing and playing the recordings, and
- transmission means for transmitting the recordings to the user terminals through at least one channel,

wherein each recording includes timing markers (TM), each of which indicates an internal position within the recording and are stored with the recording, and that the system further includes

- first management means for maintaining information on user groups formed in the system, the information indicating the user terminal(s) belonging to each group, the channel(s) assigned to each group, and the recording(s) being used by the group, wherein each of the user terminals belonging to a group have different priority rights for controlling playback of a recording;
- second management means for maintaining status information for said recordings, the status information indicating at least the playback position of the recording,
- first control means for sending status information to the user terminals of a group, and
- second control means at each user terminal, responsive to the first control means, for controlling the playback in the user terminal according to said status information,

wherein the playback of the recording in the plurality of user equipment is controlled at least by utilizing information received in a message from a user terminal with highest priority and by utilizing the stored timing markers.